

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20 RSC-01 EB-12

AGR-20 OMB-01 CIEP-03 SSC-01 AID-20 L-03 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01

/149 W

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R 031032Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSQ MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4410

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MASERU 1158

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PGOV LT

SUBJ: RAKHETLA NAMED AGRICULTURE MINISTER

REF : MASERU 1129

1. KHETLA T.J. RAKHETLA HAS BEEN ELEVATED BY PRIME MINISTER CHIEF JONATHAN FROM POSITION OF PERMANENT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE TO MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AS REPLACEMENT FOR PEETE PEETE. BORN IN 1933, RAKHETLA WAS EDUCATED IN YUGOSLAVIA UNDER SPONSORSHIP OF OPPOSITION BASUTOLAND CONGRESS PARTY AND WAS ONE OF FEW WITH SUCH CREDENTIALS TO HOLD GOVERNMENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH 1970 UPHEAVAL.

2. RAKHETLA WAS IV GRANTEE IN 1973. HE IS PERSONABLE, ALTHOUGH TACITURN, AND HIS APPOINTMENT SHOULD RESULT IN EMBASSY ACCESS TO MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AT LEAST EQUAL TO THAT ENJOYED IN PAST. RAKHETLA MAY MAKE A BETTER MINISTER
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THAN PERMANENT SECRETARY. HE HAS GOOD OVER-ALL GRASP OF AND

STRONG INTEREST IN LESOTHO'S AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS BUT HAS PROVED WEAK AS ADMINISTRATOR. DANIEL R. PHORORO, FORMERLY CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER, HAS BEEN NAMED AS NEW PERMANENT SECRETARY AND SHOULD PROVIDE STRONG ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT FOR RAKHETLA.

3. COMMENT. APPOINTMENT OF RAKHETLA, RELATIVELY UNDISTINGUISHED CIVIL SERVANT, UNDERSCORES SHORTAGE OF TALENT AVAILABLE TO CHIEF JONATHAN FROM HIS RULING BASUTOLAND NATIONAL PARTY. AGRICULTURE MINISTRY PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT (IT WAS ALLOTTED 30 PER CENT OF FY-75 CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT BUDGET) AND JONATHAN MAY BELIEVE CIVIL SERVANT WITH AGRICULTURAL COMPETENCE PREFERABLE TO POLITICAL FIGURE WITHOUT. NOMINATION OF TWO CIVIL SERVANTS, MOITSE AT COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, AND KOTSOKOANE AT FOREIGN AFFAIRS, IN JULY CABINET CHANGES SPARKED CONSIDERABLE CRITICISM AND MORE MAY BE LIKELY AS RESULT OF RAKHETLA'S APPOINTMENT.
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Message Attributes

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